
NEWS



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Indiana Standards Receive Perfect Score

Indiana's academic standards rank at the top in the nation along with California and Massachusetts, according to the latest "State of State Standards 2006" report released by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. The report is a compilation of five subject reviews released between 2003 and 2006 and the first full review of such standards since 2000.

"This validates that Indiana has set the right expectations for students," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed. "The challenge is ensuring that our students measure up to these standards."

According to the report, Indiana received an "A" grade overall, up from a C+ in 2000, and straight "A's" in each of five subject areas covered: English, history, geography, math and science. Indiana, California and Massachusetts were the only three states to receive perfect scores in the report. Additionally, Indiana was one of only nine states to improve their grade by more than one letter or more since the 2000 report.

"Strong standards have always been the key to standards-based reform and they're even more important under No Child Left Behind when schools face consequences for not meeting them," said Fordham president Chester E. Finn, Jr. "While debates over testing get more attention, a state's standards exert tremendous influence over what actually happens in its classrooms."

Indiana is one of three states, along with California and Massachusetts, featured in the report as a model in the development in top-notch standards.

"These three exemplars show that, with the right leadership, every state can create world-class standards," said Michael J. Petrilli, Fordham's vice president for national programs and policy.

Complete state reviews, as well as the full text of the report, can be found at www.edexcellence.net. For more information about the report or its findings, please contact Jennifer Leischer, Communications Manager for the Fordham Foundation at 202-223-5452 or via email at jleischer@edexcellence.net.

Indiana's complete K-12 academic standards are available on the Department of Education's Web site at: www.doe.state.in.us/standards.

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Attachment: Indiana Report Card (*Source: Thomas B. Fordham Foundation*)

INDIANA REPORT CARD

| SUBJECT | 2000 | 2006 |
|---------------|------|------|
| English | F | A |
| History* | C | A |
| Geography** | A | A |
| Math | C | A |
| Science | A | A |
| OVERALL GRADE | C+ | A |

**U.S. History for 2006*

***World History for 2006*